

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/822,911	ESPINOSE ET AL.	
	Examiner Louis K. Huynh	Art Unit 3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the communication filed 12/10/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-14 and 16-20.
3. The drawings filed on 12 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/12/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Dennis Daley (Reg. No. 34,994) on February 04, 2005.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

The priority statement has been updated and replaced as follows:

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/393,956, filed on March 20, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 6,752,446, which is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/925,611, filed on August 9, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,547,306, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/224,569, filed on August 10, 2000. U.S. Application Serial No. 10/393,936, U.S. Application Serial No. 09/925,611, and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/224,569 are incorporated herein by reference.

The Abstract has been replaced with:

A vehicle shield device includes a hood protector region and hood attachment region. The hood protector region is constructed for extending across at least a portion of a vehicle hood for protecting the vehicle hood. The hood protector region includes at least

one flexible region for allowing folding of the hood protector region to provide the vehicle shield device in a folded configuration that is shorter than the full length of the vehicle shield device as it would be provided when mounted to a vehicle hood so that the vehicle shield device can be packaged and shipped in the folded configuration. The hood protector region and the hood attachment region can be provided from a molded and continuous plastic sheet.

Claim 12 has been replaced with:

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for packaging a vehicle shield device, the method comprising steps of:
providing a vehicle shield device comprising:
 hood protector region constructed for extending across at least a portion of a vehicle hood for protecting the vehicle hood, the hood protector region comprising at least one flexible region for allowing bending of the hood protector region; and
 hood attachment region constructed for attaching the hood protector region to a vehicle hood;
bending the hood protector region about the flexible region to provide the vehicle shield device in a folded configuration that is shorter than the full length of the vehicle shield device as it would be provided when mounted to a vehicle hood;
providing a shipping container; and
placing the vehicle shield device in the folded configuration into the shipping container.

Claim 13 has been replaced with:

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of using a fastener to hold the vehicle shield device in the folded configuration.

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

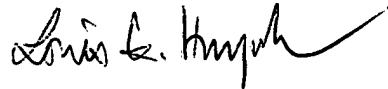
The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method for packaging a vehicle shield device that comprises in combination the steps of: bending the vehicle shield device at a flexible region in a hood protector region of the vehicle shield device to provide the vehicle shield device in a folded configuration that is shorter than the full length of the vehicle shield device as it would be provided when mounted to a vehicle hood, and placing the vehicle shield device in the folded configuration into a shipping container.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:30AM to 5:00PM.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Louis K. Huynh
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3721

February 04, 2005